

care. The addition of \$10-\$12 for dental coverage should not be beyond the bounds of economic possibility.

REFERENCES

1. *Medical Care for the American People*. Final Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care. University of Chicago Press, 1932.
2. Lee, R. I., and Jones, L. W. *The Fundamentals of Good Medical Care. Publications of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care No. 22*. University of Chicago Press, 1933.
3. McCall, J. O. Dental Practice and Dental Education in the Future. *J. Am. Dent. A.*, 31:16 (Jan.), 1944.
4. Beck, D. F. *Costs of Dental Care for Adults under Specific Clinical Conditions*. American College of Dentists. Lancaster Press, 1943.

A MESSAGE FROM THOMAS PARRAN, M.D., SURGEON GENERAL,
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

THE late Dr. William H. Welch of The Johns Hopkins University once said that America's two greatest contributions to public health are the Panama Canal and the public health nurse.

Public health nursing is very largely a 20th century development. During the past thirty years the number of public health nurses increased from 3,000 to more than 20,000, until today they outnumber any other professional group in the health field. Yet, if total nursing needs in this field are to be met, three times as many public health nurses must be made available.

Nursing service is needed to translate into practice almost every phase of public health. Child hygiene, maternity service, venereal disease, and tuberculosis control, industrial hygiene, and even home and community sanitation programs are only a few of the services which, if they are to function effectively, must have the guidance and assistance of nurses. Although public health nursing originated because there was need for professional nursing care of the sick on a visit basis in the homes, some of our public health administrators have lost sight of that important public health nursing function. Prevention and cure of disease are two sides of the same problem. They are not two separate problems. From the beginning public health nurses have been concerned with the total health situation of the family, including sickness care, disease prevention, and health promotion. The whole public health profession, including hospital and sanatorium administrators, must share this same point of view if optimum health is to be obtained for all during the post-war period.

In setting aside January 26 as Public Health Nursing Day for America, health administrators and all other friends of nursing should dedicate themselves to promote:

1. The extension of public health nursing services so that there shall be enough qualified nurses to meet the needs of all people.
2. A plan for the payment and distribution of those services on the basis of need, not on the ability of the individual to pay.
3. The establishment of employment policies which will insure qualified nurses full employment, adequate compensation and the security incident to retirement benefits.

Public Health Nursing Day should serve to focus the attention of the American family upon the value of the public health nurse as a front line defender and restorer of health.